

FAITH FACTOR
#3 – DEALING WITH DOUBTS
MATTHEW 11:1-9

Intro: The doubts develop when your life is suddenly turned upside down, out of control, and filled with pain. How do you deal with your doubts?

After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John (the Baptist) heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask Him, "Are You the One Who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Matthew 11:1-3

I. Doubts Happen When God Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

- ***Like John the Baptist (JTB), we often have _____ expectations of what God will be and do in our lives.*** JTB probably expected a traditional, earthly-king Messiah. Instead, Jesus is a spiritual Messiah. Today, God often doesn't meet our expectations on Who He is, and what He does in the world.
- ***Wrong expectations can come from misinterpreting, misunderstanding, and _____ God's Scripture including his promises.*** Some promises are specific (only for the people of the time), other general (for all times). All scripture promises should be claimed carefully, and read correctly. Scripture should never be used to dictate to God, or manipulate him.
- ***Wrong expectations can come when God doesn't "compute" according to our _____ and wisdom.*** God's actions often don't seem logical, or the most effective way. God can even seem counter-productive or wasteful.

II. Doubts Grow When God Doesn't Come Through For Us

- ***Like John the Baptist; in times of our intense _____, God may not rescue us.*** After John the Baptist's courageous and faithful ministry, he found himself imprisoned and seemingly abandoned.
- ***Sometimes, the need is truly _____ need for us when God doesn't come through, we are permanently hurt (John the Baptist was beheaded). We don't understand why.***

Jesus replied, "God back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. Matthew 11:4-9

III. Doubts Can Be Defeated When We Experience God Anew

- ***Understand that doubts are sometimes a result of spiritual _____ – Some small, some large, and others "Ulimate."*** These tests expose areas of sin and weakness in your life, and give opportunities to grow spiritually.
- ***Doubts can be good when it _____ faulty spiritual beliefs and thinking.*** It can motivate us to understand the Real Truth about God, His ways, and His Kingdom.
- ***Doubts should encourage us to _____ God, and more tightly embrace Him in our relationship with Him.***
- ***Work to get a fresh _____ from God on what he's doing in the world, and in your life.***

Deal with your doubts to grow in faith.

Answers: I. Wrong; misapplying; logic. II. Need; desperate. III. Tests; exposes; seek; perspective.

Inner Action – Applying These Truths Today

- 1) Are you struggling with doubts in your faith with God right now? In what area of your life?
- 2) Why do you have doubts? Is it because of wrong expectations or understanding of Him; or because he didn't come through for you in the time of intense need?
- 3) What do you need to do to defeat your doubts?